

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 05227 221646Z

15

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SAB-01 AF-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3139

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UNGA PN PQ

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL TREATY: PERMREP DISCUSSES TREATY
NEGOTIATIONS

REF:A) USUN 4275

ON OCTOBER 16, PANAMANIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE BOYD SPOKE ON THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS AND RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS AT THE CENTER FOR INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS. BOYD'S FORMAL PRESENTATION WAS VERY MUCH ALONG THE LINES OF ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER OZORES' GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 3, 1975 (REF A).

2. BOYD SAID THAT THE USG SUBMITTED A SEPTEMBER "PAPER" CALLING FOR A 50-YEAR TREATY AND AN INDEFINITE PERIOD FOR US DEFENSE OF THE CANAL. HE EQUATED AN "INDEFINITE PERIOD" WITH PERPETUITY WHICH HE SAID SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER TACK HAD RULED OUT. BOYD SAID THAT THE US HAD JUMPED OFF THE TRACK ESTABLISHED BY THE JOINT STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 1974 AND THAT IT WOULD BE A TOKEN OF GOOD FAITH IF THE US WERE TO WITHDRAW THE SEPTEMBER PAPER.

3. IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS FOLLOWING HIS PRESENTATION, BOYD SAID THAT THE U.S. PUSHED CUBA INTO COMMUNISM AND THAT
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PAGE 02 USUN N 05227 221646Z

HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULDN'T DO THE SAME WITH PANAMA. HE

MADE A PLEA FOR THE U.S. PRESIDENT TO TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT PANAMA IS OFFERING 25 YEARS OF CONTINUING JURISDICTION, WHICH HE SAID IS THE EQUIVALENT OF 100 YEARS IN THE 19TH CENTURY. HE ADDED THAT PANAMA HAS NO CONTROL OVER POTENTIAL VIOLENCE AND THAT IF ANYONE IS KILLED, THE PEOPLE OF THE U.S. WILL BLAME THE U.S. PRESIDENT FOR FAILING TO DO HIS DUTY BY COMPLETING THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

4. IN AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH A MEMBER OF THE PANAMANIAN DELEGATION FOLLOWING BOYD'S REMARKS, THE PANAMANIAN DELEGATION OFFICER EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR PRES. FORD TO ACT AS BOYD SUGGESTED. FOLLOWING US ALTERNATIVE REP HAUGH'S RESPONSE THAT HE DOUBTED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD TAKE THAT ACTION, THE PANAMANIAN DEL OFFICER REPLIED WITH A CONSPIRATIONAL "AFTER THE ELECTIONS."
MOYNIHAN

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